

# "My Four Years in Germany"---By Ambassador James Watson Gerard

## KAISER HALDOGS WATCH PRISONERS IN TYPHUS CAMP

By JAMES W. GERARD.  
Ambassador to Germany, July 24, 1913, to February 4, 1917.  
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Undoubtedly the worst prison camp which I visited in Germany was that of Wittenberg. Wittenberg is the ancient town where Luther lived and nailed his theses to the church door. The camp was situated just outside the city in a very unattractive spot next to the railway. An outbreak of typhus fever prevented us from visiting the camp, although Mr. Jackson conversed with some of the prisoners from outside the barrier of barbed wire.

When the typhus was finally driven out, Mr. Litgow Osborne visited the camp and his report of conditions there was such that I visited it myself, in the meantime holding up his report until I had verified it. With Charles H. Russell, Jr., I visited the camp. Typhus fever seems to be continually present in Russia. It is carried by the body louse, and is transmitted from one person to another. Russian soldiers seem to carry this disease with them without apparently suffering much from it themselves. The Russian soldiers arriving at Wittenberg were not properly disinfected, and in consequence typhus fever broke out in camp.

**Kept All Together.**  
Several British medical officers were there with their prisoners, because, by the provisions of The Hague conventions, captured medical officers may be kept with the troops of their nation. If prisoners have need of their services. These medical officers protested with the camp commander against the herding together of the French and British prisoners with the Russians, who, as I have said, were suffering from typhus fever. But the camp commander said, "You will have to know your allies." He kept all of his prisoners together, and thus he surely condemned to death a number of French and British prisoners of war as though he had stood them against the wall and ordered them shot by a firing squad.

Conditions in the camp during the period of this epidemic were frightful. The camp was virtually deserted by the Germans, and it was sure that the German doctor did not make as many visits to the camp as the situation required.

At the time I visited the camp the typhus epidemic, of course, had been stamped out. The Germans employed a large number of police dogs in this camp, and these dogs not only were used in watching the outside of the camp in order to prevent the escape of prisoners, but were used within the camp. Many complaints were made to me by prisoners concerning these dogs, prisoners stating that men had been bitten by the dogs. It seemed undoubtedly true that the prisoners there had been knocked about and beaten in a terrible manner by their guards, and one guard went so far as to strike one of the British medical officers in the camp.

There were about thirty-seven civilian prisoners in the camp who had been there all through the typhus epidemic. I secured the removal of these civilian prisoners to the general civilian camp at Ruhleben, and the conditions at Wittenberg may be judged by the fact that when it was announced to these civilians that they were to be taken from Wittenberg to another camp, one of them was so excited by the news of release that he fell dead upon the spot.

In talking over conditions at Wittenberg with Von Jagow I said, "Suppose I go back to Wittenberg and shoot some of these dogs, what can you do to me?" Soon after the dogs disappeared from the camp.

**The Food Supplied to Prisoners.**  
The food in all these camps for civilians and for private soldiers was about the same. It consisted of an allowance of bread, of the same weight as that given the civilian population. This was given out in the morning with a cup of something called coffee, but which in reality was an extract of acorns or something of the kind without milk or sugar; in the middle of the day, a bowl of thick soup in which the quantity of meat was gradually diminished as war went on as well as the amount of potatoes, for which at a later period turnips and carrots were, to a large extent, substituted; and in the evening, in good camps, there was some sort of thick soup given out or an apple, or an almost infinitesimal piece of cheese or sausage.

In the war department at Berlin there was a prisoners-of-war department in charge of Colonel, later General, Friedrich. This department, however, did not seem to be in a position to issue orders to the corps commanders commanding the army corps districts of Germany, who had absolute control of the prison camps within their districts. Colonel Friedrich, however, and his assistants endeavored to standardize the treatment of prisoners of war in the different corps districts, and were able to exert a certain amount of pressure on the corps commanders. They determined on the general regime to be taken in connection with prisoners of war.

**Colonel Friedrich's Reprisals.**  
For instance, when some of the Germans who had been taken prisoners by the English, and who were in England, were sent by the English to work in the harbor of Havre, the Germans retaliated by sending about four hundred of their English prisoners to work at Libau in the part of Russia then occupied by the Germans. But while the English permitted our

embassy in Paris to inspect the prisoners of war at Havre, the Germans for months refused to allow me permission to send anyone to inspect those British prisoners at Libau. Cases came to my attention where individual corps commanders on their own initiative directed punitive measures against the prisoners of war in their districts, on account of the ru-

mors of the bad treatment of German citizens in England. Thus the commander in the district where the camp of Doberitz was situated issued an order directing reprisals against prisoners under his command on account of what he claimed to be the bad treatment of German women in England. It required constant vigilance to seek out instances of this kind and cause them to be remedied.

**Divided Authority Worked Bad Conditions.**  
I did not find the Germans at all efficient in the handling of prisoners of war. The authority was so divided that it was hard to find who was re-

sponsible for any given bad condition. For instance, for a long period of time I contended with the German authorities for better living conditions at the civilian camp of Ruhleben. I spent enough days at the camp to establish every prisoner who had a complaint of any kind to personally present it to me.

The organization of this camp was quite extraordinary. I found it impossible to get English prisoners to perform the ordinary work of cleaning up the camp, always excepting the prisoners themselves, and so, with the funds furnished me from the British government, the camp captain was compelled to pay a number of the poorer prisoners an allowance of 5 marks a week, thus permitting them to buy little luxuries and necessities and extra food at the camp canteen which was early established



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**TO REPLACE TREES TORN DOWN FOR WAR PURPOSES**  
"War's robbery of Washington's beautiful trees and destruction of the beauty of the parks will be temporary. The temporary buildings now under construction to care for war work will be torn down as soon as the need for them ceases to exist and the beautiful old trees that have been cut down to make way for war construction here will be replaced by new trees."

This statement was made to The Times today by Col. Clarence S. Ridley, in charge of public buildings and grounds, in replying to protests of citizens of the National Capital. The area between Sixth and Seventh streets clear across the Mall to the Medical Museum has been swept clean of its present growth of trees. Several large trees were also felled to make way for the aviation shed on southwest B street, between Ninth and Tenth streets.

**No Separate Peace Near**  
Diplomats here say the Bulgars are repeating their pre-war dickerings with both sides "to raise the ante." Actually there is little prospect of a separate Bulgarian peace at the moment, officials say. They agreed with Premier Lloyd George's statement that only a lasting peace should be accomplished. While optimistic over the outcome and more than well-pleased with the Flanders successes, authorities here join him in warning that the country must realize there is still bitter work ahead before the foe is beaten into submission.

**RUSSIANS WILL NOT COUNTENANCE SEPARATE OR COUNTERFEIT PEACE**  
Russia will not countenance a counterfeit peace nor will she discuss peace terms of any kind unless in full agreement with the entente allies. This, in effect, is the declaration of Boris Bakmetieff, the Russian ambassador.

M. Bakmetieff further states that Russia's desire for an early peace is like that of the United States, England, and France. After reading reports of the instructions furnished by the workmen's and soldiers' council to M. Skobeltz, delegate to the peace conference at Paris, he issued the following statement:

"The idea of a separate peace is absolutely out of all consideration. It is not even thought of by any statesman or representative of any party group in Russia."

communication, the Germans' eastern drive advances ultimate allied victory.

**HAIG Success Compensates.**  
Moreover, the allies' Flanders successes more than offset the eastern progress of the Germans, and General Haig's typhoon fire and attacks will continue all winter in an effort to shatter the German line and shake the German stamina.

This weakening morale is increasing as evidenced by the growing number of deserters who reach the allied lines.

And that Germany fears western developments is proven by the fact that she is not seeking some sort of armistice in the Balkans in order to free more troops for the west and Italian fronts.

Meanwhile, Bulgaria is playing a double-edged game with her Hun allies, threatening a separate peace in order to get what Bulgaria wants of military support and coveted territory.

**Tear Down Old Trees.**  
"Some of those trees, where the aviation shed was erected, were over fifty years old," says George S. Fraser, an old resident of the neighborhood and a former officer of the Southwest Citizens' Association. "I have seen them grow since boyhood and it hurts to see them felled."

Fraser is of the opinion that it would have been picked a site where such a ruthless waste of trees would not have been necessary. He points to vacant ground back of the War Department, on the Ellipse and down toward the tidal basin.

The site at Sixth and B streets was designated by Congress in the act providing for the building. Colonel Ridley says that it would have been necessary to destroy many of the trees eventually to make room for the Washington Memorial, which is to be erected on a part of the site that the temporary office building will occupy, after the latter is dismantled. Further, that it would have been hard to have located such an immense building in any other place as convenient to the army of 10,000 or more clerks who will occupy it.

**DR. SHAW URGES GIRLS TO WORK AT KEYS FOR COUNTRY**  
Dr. Anna Howard Shaw today urged America's girls to take up typewriters in defense of their country.

"A vital need of the Government at the present time is for stenographers and typewriters," said Dr. Shaw, "and the woman's committee of the Council of National Defense has circulated the State divisions asking them to spread the idea among the girls and young women."

These jobs pay from \$900 to \$1,200 a year to start, and are open to girls from eighteen to twenty, with good chances for advancement. Examinations are held throughout the country by civil service commissioners every Tuesday. All needed information can be obtained at your local postoffice. Dr. Shaw's circular says:

"The commission urges, on the ground of patriotism, that women who are trained in stenography or typewriting, or both, enter open competitive examinations at once, and that those who have not such training immediately undergo instruction in exactly the same spirit that has moved them to attend classes in first aid nursing, that is, the spirit of helpfulness."

**LEMON JUICE FOR FRECKLES**  
Girls! Make beauty lotion at home for a few cents. Try it!

Squeeze the juice of two lemons into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white, shake well, and you have a quarter pint of the best freckle lotion, and complexion beautifier, at very small cost. Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply three ounces of orchard white for a few cents. Massage this sweetly fragrant lotion into the face, neck, arms, and hands each day and see how freckles and blemishes disappear and how clear, soft, and white the skin becomes. Yes! it is harmless.—ADVT.

## CAPTURED ALLIED SOLDIERS GIVEN MISERABLE FOOD

cation, men in delicate health, were compelled to sleep and live six in a box stall or so closely that the beds touched each other in hay lofts, the outside walls of which were only four feet high.

Finally, almost in despair, I wrote identical personal letters, after having exhausted all ordinary diplomatic steps, to General Von Kae difficulty, commander of the Mark of Brandenburg, to the commander of the corps district in which the Ruhleben camp was situated, and to the minister of war, the only result was that each of the officers addressed claimed that he had been personally insulted by me, because I had presumed to call his attention to the inhuman conditions under which the prisoners were compelled to live in the Ruhleben camp.

The commander of this civilian camp of Ruhleben was a very handsome old gentleman, named Count Schwerin. His second in command for a long time was a Baron Taube. Both of these officers had been long retired from the army and were given these prison commands at the commencement of the war. Both of them were naturally kind-hearted but curiously sensitive, and not always of even temper. On the whole, I think that they sympathized with the prisoners, and did their best to obtain a bettering of the conditions of their confinement. The prisoners organized themselves in their various barracks, each barracks having a barracks captain, and did their best to obtain a bettering of the conditions of their confinement, selecting one of their number as a camp captain or "obmann."

**In the Case of Powell.**  
The man who finally appeared as head of the camp was an ex-cinematograph proprietor, named Powell. In my mind, he, assisted by Beaumont and other captains, conducted the affairs of the camp, giving the duties of dealing with the prisoners on one hand and the prison authorities on the other hand—as well as possible. Naturally, he was always subject to opposition from many prisoners, among whom those of aristocratic tendencies objected to being under the control of one, not of the highest caste in England, and there were others who either envied him his authority or desired his place. The camp authorities allowed Powell to visit the embassy at least once a week; in that way I was enabled to keep in direct touch with the camp. At two periods during my stay in Berlin I spent enough days at the camp to establish every prisoner who had a complaint of any kind to personally present it to me.

The organization of this camp was quite extraordinary. I found it impossible to get English prisoners to perform the ordinary work of cleaning up the camp, always excepting the prisoners themselves, and so, with the funds furnished me from the British government, the camp captain was compelled to pay a number of the poorer prisoners an allowance of 5 marks a week, thus permitting them to buy little luxuries and necessities and extra food at the camp canteen which was early established

in the camp, I also furnished the capital to the camp canteen, enabling it to make its purchases and carry on its business. In this establishment everything could be purchased which was purchasable in Germany, and for months after the commencement of the war, articles of luxury were sold at a profit and articles of food sold at a loss for the benefit of those who required an addition to the camp diet. There was a street in the camp of little barracks or booths which the prisoners christened Bond street, and where many stores were in operation, such as a tailor shop, shoemaker, watchmaker, and so on. Acting with Powell, I succeeded in getting the German authorities to turn over the kitchens to the prisoners. Four of the prisoners who did most excellent self-defending work in these kitchens deserve to be specially mentioned. They were Ernest L. Pyke, Herbert Kastner, Richard H. Carrad, and George Ferguson.

The men in this camp subsisted to a great extent upon the packages of food sent to them from England. Credit must be given to the German authorities for the fairly prompt and efficient delivery of the packages of food sent from England, Denmark, and Switzerland to prisoners of war in all camps.

**SOLDIERS TO BE GUESTS OF CORCORAN GALLERY**  
**U. S. Army Men to Be Welcomed at Art Exhibition.**  
Men of the military service in Washington Saturday night will be the guests of the Corcoran Art Gallery at a special exhibition in their honor from 7 to 10 o'clock.

Following its decision of last week to admit all officers, soldiers and sailors to the auditorium without the charge, the gallery management declared today the exhibition Saturday night will be the first of a series of entertainments for the men in uniform.

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C. P. Minnigerode, director of the Corcoran Art Gallery, will have personal charge of the exhibition. A feature of the exhibition will be a series of war cartoons by Louis Rasmussen, the celebrated Dutch cartoonist. Exhibit of the cartoons was to have ended today, but because of the entertainment planned for the fighting men it has been decided to let it continue until Sunday.

Thirty-three landscape paintings by Charles Rosen, the American artist, are an attractive part of the exhibition.

**SPECIAL NOTICES**  
NORTH WASHINGTON'S RALLY for the Liberty Loan at American Theater, Rhode Island ave., and 1st st., Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Good speakers and music. All citizens invited to be present. F. W. Pritchett, Sec'y. Gen. C. H. Oursand, Pres.

FRANCIS C. WALLACE—Representing Bassett Bros. Co., Manufacturers Advertising Specialists in the East and West. Exhibits, badges, buttons, signs, etc. 219, Washington Loan and Trust Building.

## Budweiser

Its appealing excellence is the result of the master-touch in brewing science applied to the finest, most vigorous and healthful cereals and hops.

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Dealers WASHINGTON, D. C.

## GEN. BLISS APPLIES FOR WAR INSURANCE

Application for \$10,000 worth of insurance under the new war insurance law today was made by Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the army. Other applications for insurance included a group of twenty-seven applications from Company A, of the 167th Infantry. Each application was for \$10,000 worth of insurance.

## AVOID ALL MEAT IF KIDNEYS AND BLADDER BOTHER

Uric Acid in meat excites Kidneys and irritates the Bladder.

Kidney and Bladder weakness result from uric acid, says a noted authority. The kidneys filter this acid from the blood and pass it on to the bladder, where it often remains to irritate and inflame, causing a burning, scalding sensation, or setting up an irritation at the neck of the bladder, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night. The sufferer is in constant dread, the water passes sometimes with a scalding sensation and is very profuse; again there is difficulty in voiding it. Bladder weakness, most folks call it because they can't control urination. While it is extremely annoying and sometimes very painful, this is really one of the simplest ailments to overcome. Get about four ounces of Jad Salts from your pharmacist and take a tablespoonful of the glass of water before breakfast, continue this for two or three days. This will neutralize the acid in the urine so it no longer is a source of irritation to the bladder and urinary organs which then act normally again. Jad Salts is inexpensive, harmless, and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and is used by thousands of folks who are subject to urinary disorders caused by uric acid irritation. Jad Salts is a splendid food for kidneys and causes no bad effects whatever.

Here you have a pleasant, effective, uric acid-water drink which quickly relieves bladder trouble.—ADVT.

## PREMIER APPEALS FOR SOLID FRONT AGAINST GERMANS

Germany's new Russian smashes means chiefly that she is trying to gain a separate Russian peace, while at the same time trying to cheer the flagging spirits of her own people. That was the view today of Secretary of War Baker and other high officials.

But Russian diplomats here have said there will be no separate peace, while Secretary Baker declared that as it lengthens the Teuton line of

**SCIATICA SUFFERERS SOON RELIEVED**  
Peculiar, darting, piercing pain of neuralgia in sciatic nerve relieved by Sloan's Liniment

Don't think there's no help for your Sciatica because you've tried other remedies. Sloan's Liniment is so penetrating and effective, it gets right down and stops the pain by relieving the pressure on the irritated nerve. Probably some inflammation or irritation is causing this irritation. The counter-irritant effect of Sloan's Liniment soon quiets the nerve and stops its paroxysms of protesting pain.

Simply bathe the aching part with a little Sloan's Liniment. This clear, clean, liquid will not stain the skin. It gives you immediate relief without rubbing. The wear and tear of suffering from Sciatica, Neuralgia, Sprains, Bruises or other external aches not only makes you feel like enduring the pain, but may have a weakening effect on your strength. You can always get Sloan's Liniment. Generous size bottles at druggists everywhere. 50c and \$1.00.

**Sloan's Liniment**  
KILLS PAIN